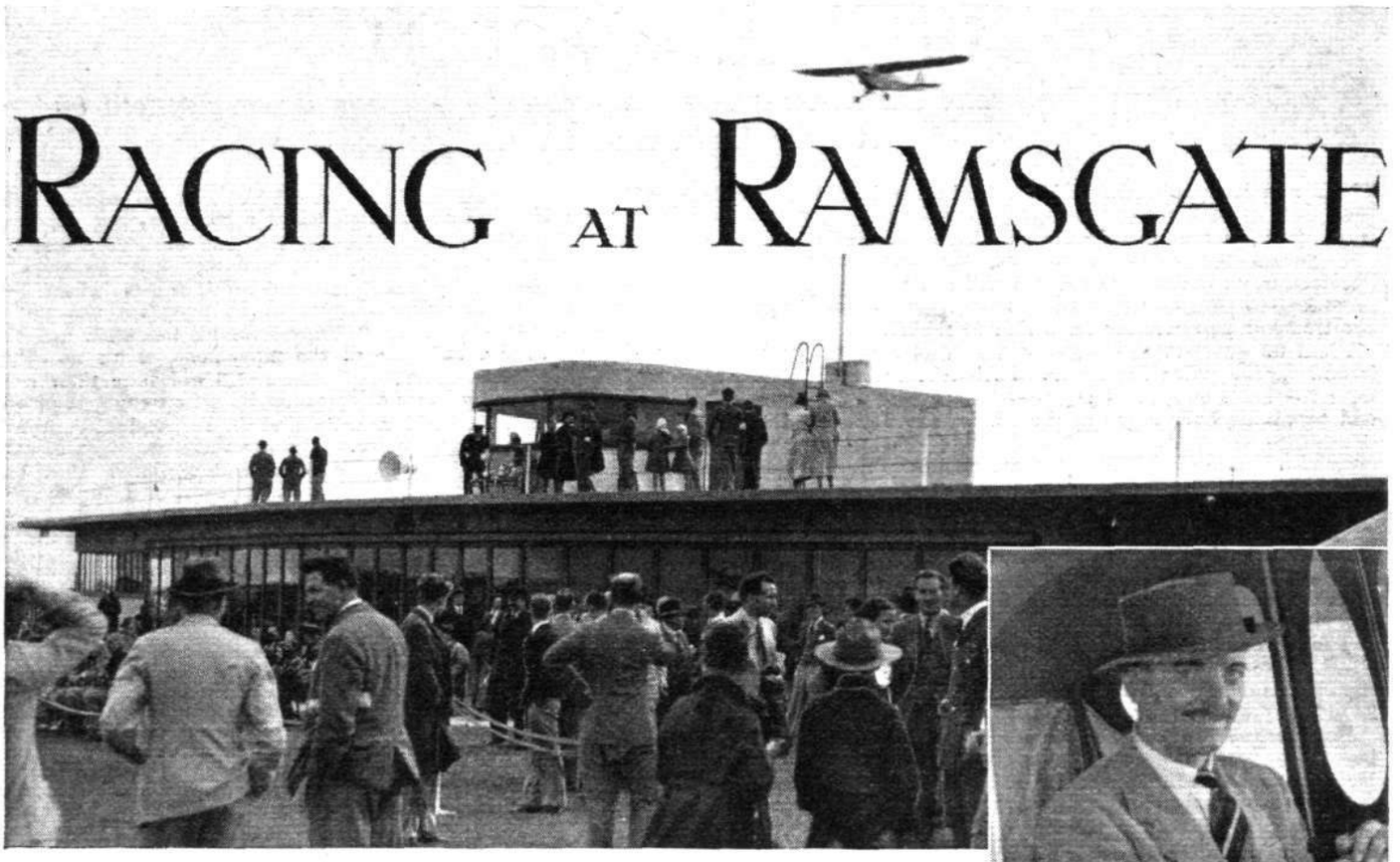
RACING AT RAMSGATE



Mr. Elwell brings his victorious Cub in over the attractive clubhouse at Ramsgate. On the right is a detailed view of Mr. Elwell. (*Flight* photographs.)

Taylor Cub and Veteran Spartan First Home in Thanet Event : Generous Handicapping Permits Win at 71.5 m.p.h. : Gardner (Mew Gull) Averages 209 m.p.h.

SO long as air racing endures there will always be people who refuse to see that, in a race over a triangular course, a fast machine is less affected than its slower rivals by a strong wind because it spends a shorter time on the up-wind leg.

That fact, of course, must be a handicapper's golden text in such an event as the Thanet Air Race, flown last Saturday from Ramsgate Airport, in which a variety of machines made three laps of a triangular course in a strong northerly wind. Perhaps our maestros of the slide rule, Messrs. Dancy and Rowarth, were a shade too sympathetic toward the puny and aged in their defiance of Boreas, for we saw a Taylor Cub and an elderly Spartan Arrow leading home a field of sixteen, including a brace of Mew Gulls and the T.K.2.

The pilot of the victorious Cub was Mr. Paul Elwell. He was flying on behalf of Mr. A. J. Walter, who, encouraged by some astronomical sales figures from the States, is doing his best to get Britain Cub-minded. Second was Flt. Lt. H. R. A. Edwards in the evergreen Spartan Arrow which, so the tale is told, is none other than the Thanet Race victor of five years ago, and third came—yes—Alex. Henshaw in his virginal-hued but fast Mew Gull.

The award for fastest time went to Charles Gardner, whose Mew Gull has a Series II Gipsy Six engine and v.p. airscrew which gives him about 10 m.p.h. over his fellow Mew-enthusiast. Gardner averaged 209 m.p.h.

J. Vitols took the prize for the smartest turn-out with his Cirrus-Minor-engined V.E.F.12—a product which does Latvia no little credit.

(Left)
Flt. Lt. H. R. A. Edwards flew his elderly Spartan Arrow into second place and gave a creditable display of flying (afterwards) at next to no forward speed.

(Right)
Protagonists of the Mew Gull: Alex. Henshaw and Charles Gardner discuss chances. Henshaw came third and Gardner put up the fastest time. (*Flight* photographs.)